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# Clean Grain Notes

for Cooperators in Clean Grain Program



FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NO. 7

Wheat Seizures: Need for continued aggressive Clean Grain educational work is evident by the increased number of seizures by the Food and Drug Administration of contaminated wheat in interstate transit. FDA reports total seizures of rodent and insect contaminated wheat since January 1, 1955, have reached 109 carloads. This is an increase of 39 since the last Clean Grain Notes was issued in October, and 47 since the start of the 1957 harvesting season. Most of the seizures were because of rodent contamination.

Breakdown by origin of shipment of the 39 seizures since last October and the number of cars seized from each State is: Nebraska 13, South Dakota 8, North Dakota 7, Montana 3, Minnesota 2, Wyoming 2, Kansas 1, Missouri 1, Oklahoma 1, and Wisconsin 1.

The fact that 39 cars have been seized since October doesn't imply that all other shipments were below FDA tolerance levels. It does imply, however, that keeping grain clean is a paying proposition and one that calls for constant diligence. FDA adds that most seizures are old grain, making it all the more important to continually inspect grain and grain storage facilities to assure cleanliness, and to take necessary steps to keep rodents and insects out.

Other Seizures: In addition to the seizures of insect or rodent contaminated grain, FDA is continually on the lookout for food grains to which have been added seed grains treated with poisonous seed treatment compounds or other poisonous substances. Since July of last year, FDA has seized:

wheat--7 carloads and 3 other lots contaminated with mercury (seed treatment), and 2 carloads containing excessive residues of hydrogen cyanide.

corn--1 carload and 2 other lots contaminated with Thiram; 1 lot bearing DDT residues, and 1 carload contaminated with another pesticide chemical.

oats--2 carloads contaminated with a mercurial seed treatment.

oats and barley mixed--1 carload contaminated with a mercurial seed treatment.

Altogether, FDA has seized 67 carloads or lots of grain from all causes since last July 1. The dollar loss since last July from grain diverted from food use to lower-price feed use is far too great when such losses could have been prevented.

Court Injunctions: Taking additional measures to strengthen its wheat inspection program, FDA is now seeking court injunctions to clean up elevators which continue to allow grain to become contaminated in storage.

Under the injunction procedure, FDA asks the Federal Court to halt shipment of filthy grain or grain which has been stored under insanitary conditions. If the court issues an injunction against an elevator, it must satisfactorily dispose of contaminated grain and correct the basic storage conditions at fault before resuming interstate shipment.

Within the last few months four such injunctions have been obtained and several others are in various stages of processing.

Grain Storage Situation: The grain storage situation will be tight in some sections of the country this summer and fall. In several States, substantial increases will likely be needed in farm storage capacity if the 1958 crop of grains and oilseeds is to be handled in an orderly and efficient manner that serves the needs of farmers, the grain trade, and the public.

It is not too late for elevator managers to do those things necessary to get their existing commercial facilities in the best condition possible to meet the larger anticipated demands for storage space. Where existing capacity at local terminal elevators does not appear to be sufficient for anticipated needs; elevator managers can help by encouraging their patrons to increase farm storage facilities, particularly in Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas and Missouri, where the need is expected to be most urgent.

Implications of Storage Situation to Clean Grain: In view of the anticipated tight storage situation and the need for more farm storage of grain this fall and winter, it's imperative that the entire grain trade, including farmers, make provision for keeping stored grain clean. Extension workers, county ASC committees and other agricultural leaders, grain buyers, elevator operators, shippers and processors should encourage all segments of the grain trade to start early to assure that grain goes into storage clean and remains that way. Attention should now be focused on:

1. Regular inspection of stored grains to detect any buildup of insects brought on by warm weather. Destroy any insects found in stored grains immediately.

2. Cleaning, spraying, and repair of bins before harvest to protect newly stored grain from insect, rodent, bird, and weather damage. Bait rat stations and clean up premises to destroy hiding places. Remember, every pair of rats killed now is equal to 50 killed next fall.
3. Cleaning of harvesting equipment prior to harvest to remove old grain, rat, bird and insect debris, and other filth that contaminates grain.
4. Proper construction of new storage structures. Plans for farm storage structures may be obtained from county agents, or from USDA Farmers' Bulletin No. 2071, "You Can Store Grain Safely On The Farm." Often, ready made commercial storage structures are cheaper than home-built structures, unless farm labor and materials can be used to advantage.

Educational Activities: In addition to continued emphasis on clean wheat, the corn seizure problem is still confronting us and much educational work needs to be done to improve corn shipped for human consumption.

The Extension Services in many States are holding schools, short courses, and conferences to acquaint producers, elevator operators, and others of the latest grain sanitation methods. Participants in such schools are taught to recognize insect pests; what insect, rodent, and bird control methods to use; and how to organize to do a more effective job in eliminating such pests.

State and Federal extension workers are working with representatives of the grain industry in developing, distributing, and using Clean Grain educational materials. These are directed primarily to individuals and groups having the most to do with control and corrective measures.

The Federal Extension Service has reconstituted its Clean Grain Committee to assure its maximum contribution to grain sanitation educational work. Members of the committee are working closely with the Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Predator and Rodent Control and with the Food and Drug Administration in conducting Clean Grain educational activities.

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